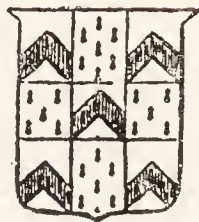


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# Annual Reports

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(A. Mathieson, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.)

AND OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

(J. Fineron, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.)

for the years 1939 and 1940



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# REPORTS

OF

## THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

**for the years 1939 and 1940.**

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Owing to great pressure of work arising out of the national emergency the report for 1939 was not completed at the usual time, and that for 1940 has been delayed as a result of Civil Defence work.

Official circulars from the Ministry of Health advising the curtailment of Annual Reports were received in respect of both years now under review. Suitable arrangements have to be made to ensure the preservation of any records not included in these reports, but which may be required to keep such records continuous and complete.

### SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area of City—3,579 acres.

Estimated resident population, 1939—8,814.

National Registration Return, 1939—9,173.

Estimated resident population, 1940—9,474. X

Registration Officer's Return for year ending 1940—10,500.

Number of inhabited houses—2,500. X

Rateable value—£55,730.

Sum represented by a penny rate—£215.

### EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1939.

Life Births—					Total	M	F
	Legitimate	...	...	...	148	74	74
	Illegitimate	...	..	...	5	2	3
					<hr/>		
					153		

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population mid 1939—17·5

Still Births—

Rate per 1,000 total live and still births—25·4.

	Total	M	F
Deaths ... ..	108	61	47
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population (using comparability factors)—10·6.			
Deaths from Puerperal causes—			
From Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	...	...	Nil
From other Puerperal causes ... ..	...	...	Nil
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age—			
All infants per 1,000 live births ... ..	...	...	44·5
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ... ..	...	...	26·4
Illegitimate per 1,000 illegitimate live births ... ..	...	...	500·0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... ..	...	...	17
„ Measles (all ages) ... ..	...	...	1
„ Whooping Cough (all ages) ... ..	...	...	0
„ Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age) ... ..	...	...	0

## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1940.

Live Births—				Total	M	F
Legitimate ... ..	...	...	...	149	82	67
Illegitimate ... ..	...	...	...	14	9	5
				<hr/>		
				163		
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population mid 1940—17·2						
Still Births—				Total	M	F
Legitimate ... ..	...	...	...	3	0	3
Illegitimate ... ..	...	...	...	1	0	1
				<hr/>		
				4		

Rate per 1,000 total births (live and still)—23·9.

	Total	M	F
Deaths ... ..	132	66	66
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population (using comparability factor)—12·6.			
Deaths from Puerperal causes—			
From Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	...	...	0
From other Puerperal causes ... ..	...	...	1
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age—			
All infants per 1,000 live births ... ..	...	...	66·6
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ... ..	...	...	46·0
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ... ..	...	...	285·0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... ..	...	...	10
„ Measles (all ages) ... ..	...	...	1
„ Whooping Cough ... ..	...	...	0
„ Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age) ... ..	...	...	3



## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

A detailed statement is contained in the Report for 1938 and there is nothing of an important nature to add to that statement.

### HOUSING.

Work under the provisions of the Housing Act was continued during the year 1939, but was abandoned during 1940. Particulars will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following is an analysis of notified cases of infectious disease under different age groups:—

### 1939

Age	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Ophthalmia	Typhoid Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Polio- myelitis	Cerebro Spinal Meningitis
Under 1	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
1— 2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
2— 3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3— 4	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
4— 5	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5—10	5	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
10—15	8	6	...	...	..	...	...	...
15—20	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
20—35	2	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
35—45	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
45—65	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Over 65	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	20	11	2	...	1	...	...	1

### 1940

Age	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Ophthalmia	Para Typh- oid Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Polio- myelitis	Cerebro Spinal Meningitis
Under 1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1
1— 2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
2— 3	1	...	...	...	..	...	...	...
3— 4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4— 5	...	1	..	...	...	...	...	...
5—10	5	2	..	...	...	...	...	...
10—15	4	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
15—20	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
20—35	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
35—45	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
45—65	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Over 65	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	13	6	1	1	2	...	2	3

## TUBERCULOSIS.

Particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and deaths from the disease during the years 1939 and 1940 are set out in the following tables :—

### 1939

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0— .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1— .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5— .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
15— .....	1	1	1	...	2	...	1	...
25— .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
35— .....	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
45— .....	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...
55— .....	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	4	2	1	2	2	2	1	...

### 1940

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0— .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1— .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5— .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
15— .....	3	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
25— .....	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
35— .....	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
45— .....	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	...
55— .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	5	3	...	2	4	...	...	1

# REPORT of the SANITARY INSPECTOR

## for the years 1939 and 1940.

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Towards the end of 1939 by far the greater part of my time was devoted to billeting, and the progress achieved in previous years could not be maintained, but every effort has been made to continue essential sanitary work as the following details will show.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE CITY.

**Water Supply.**—Particulars regarding source of supply are the same as for previous years. Samples of drinking water are taken at least once each month and the results continue to be highly satisfactory.

**Drainage and Sewerage.**—The City Surveyor states that the proposed reconstruction of the sewage disposal works referred to in the Report for 1938 has had to be postponed.

**Closet Accommodation.**—There has been no appreciable change since 1938.

### SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following is a summary of the number and nature of inspections made during the years 1939 and 1940 :—

	1939	1940
Inspections under the Housing Acts ... ..	120	20
Inspections under the Public Health Acts ... ..	185	95
Inspections under the Shops Acts ... ..	45	15
Re-Inspections ... ..	305	284
Visits to Slaughter-houses ... ..	855	36
Visits to Meat Shops ... ..	260	304
Visits to Markets ... ..	45	32
Visits to Cowsheds ... ..	55	60
Visits to Dairies and Milk Shops ... ..	64	56
Visits to Ice-Cream Premises ... ..	26	14
Visits to Common Lodging Houses ... ..	15	12
Visits to Bakehouses, Factories, and Workplaces... ..	62	56
Smoke Observations ... ..	10	5
Pig Killing on Private Premises ... ..	5	1
Samples—Drinking Water ... ..	15	20
Samples—Designated Milk ... ..	10	12

## NOTICES.

The notices served during the two years were as follows :—

	1939	1940
Informal Notices served ... ..	80	30
Statutory Notices served ... ..	5	2
Informal Notices complied with ...	75	27
Statutory Notices complied with ...	5	2

## SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Ten observations were made during the year 1939 and five during 1940.

No formal action was necessary but an informal notice was served on one owner and resulted in considerable improvement.

## HOUSING.

In 1939 a Ministry of Health Enquiry was held in reference to 64 houses comprised in 13 separate areas in Sandford Street and Stowe Street. The action of the Council was subsequently confirmed by the Minister of Health, but owing to the war the making of Clearance and Compulsory Purchase Orders was postponed. At the request of the Council, Confirmation Orders were issued in 1940 in respect of 23 of the houses which were found to be in a particularly bad structural condition, and the Council were allowed to proceed with the erection of new houses for the families displaced.

It is a matter of regret that the campaign for improved housing conditions in the City has had to be abandoned owing to the onset of war.

In the early part of 1939 a good deal of repair work was done at houses which are not likely to be affected by Clearance or Demolition Orders.

Towards the end of 1940 there was cause for concern in regard to gross overcrowding, which was feared to have been caused by the large influx of refugees from the bombed areas. Even a partial survey for the prevention of overcrowding could not be undertaken owing to the amount of work caused by billeting. It was recognised, however, that any serious overcrowding that may have taken place would speedily be abated when the problems of Civil Defence became less acute.



## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

**Milk Supply.**—Despite adverse circumstances the conditions under which milk is produced and distributed in the City have received constant and systematic attention. Samples of designated milk are collected at frequent intervals for examination by the County Bacteriologist.

The undermentioned licences were issued by the Council under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936 :—

- 1 Dealer's licence for Tuberculin Tested Milk
- 1 Dealer's licence for Accredited Milk
- 1 Pasteuriser's licence
- 2 Supplementary licences for the sale of Pasteurised Milk
- 1 Supplementary licence for the sale of Tuberculin Tested Milk.

**Meat and other Foods.**—Reference to the table at the end of this section will show a considerable increase in the number of calves slaughtered in the City. This was due to the fact that one slaughter-house which was formerly occupied by a retail butcher was taken over by a wholesaler. This change gave rise to additional work of inspection, most of which had to be done outside normal office hours but, as in previous years, every effort was made to inspect the carcasses and viscera of all animals slaughtered in the district.

Slaughtering in the City was continued during 1939 but ceased 15th January, 1940. Since that time the meat supply of the City has been received from a slaughter-house at Walsall. The first official memorandum to be received in regard to the scheme of control came to hand during February, 1940, although it was known to the Medical Officer and myself that officials, presumably authorised by the Ministry of Food, had inspected the local slaughter-houses towards the end of the previous year.

During the initial stages of the scheme, complaints were received regarding the conditions under which the meat was transported and handled from leaving Walsall to reaching the consumer here. Following an appeal to the appropriate Tribunal by the Lichfield Butchers, in connection with which I was requested to give evidence, new methods of collection and distribution were introduced, and eventually a satisfactory procedure was established.

Particulars relating to the number of animals killed, the number of carcasses inspected, and carcasses and organs condemned, are set out in the following table :—

### 1939

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed ... ..	641	48	4558	2147	1105
Number inspected ... ..	630	45	4210	1850	1085
<b>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS</b>					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	5	2	5
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	120	10	—	10	5
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuber- culosis ... ..	19%	22%	0.11%	0.64%	0.9%
<b>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY</b>					
Whole carcasses condemned	2	6	—	—	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	41	5	—	—	35
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ... ..	6.8%	24.4%	—	—	3%

### SHOPS ACTS.

During the year 1939 further improvements were carried out under the provisions of the Shops Act of 1934. Additional sanitary accommodation was provided at two provision shops where the existing accommodation was inadequate, five more shops were furnished with means of heating. It is to be regretted that some firms appear to strive after the absolute minimum in regard to heating arrangements. However, the installation of small stoves in premises which hitherto have had no means of heating

must be regarded as a step in the right direction. The systematic inspection of shops commenced in 1935 was continued during 1939, but had to be curtailed in 1940.

No formal action was taken during these two years.

## GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME.

Early in 1939 I was requested to supervise a survey of housing accommodation which was conducted to determine the number of available billets in the City.

In September, 1939, unaccompanied school children and mothers with children under school age were received from West Bromwich. The total number of evacuees received was 361. The operation of the scheme in Lichfield imposed an enormous amount of additional work on the Public Health Department, a good deal of which had to be undertaken outside usual office hours; but with the assistance of voluntary helpers all difficulties were solved and the newcomers were successfully billeted. It was not long, however, before the evacuees began to drift back home, and by the middle of 1940 the original number had been reduced to about 40.

In June, 1940, we received an intimation concerning 300 children who were expected to arrive from the South-East Coast. For reasons connected with educational requirements this arrangement was cancelled on the morning the children were expected to arrive, although a comprehensive scheme for reception and billeting had been worked out.

Early in 1940 we were advised that at some date unspecified about 300 grammar school children, with their teachers, may be sent from Birmingham. This contingent arrived in the City during November, and the billeting had to be effected under extremely difficult conditions, as during September and October there had been a large influx of evacuees and refugees from the vulnerable areas, principally London, and many of the billets earmarked for the Birmingham children had been lost. In these circumstances there was no alternative but to introduce compulsory billeting, although the necessity for this course was deprecated by all concerned.

At the end of 1940 the number of persons billeted in the City under the official arrangements was 610, while the number who had found their own accommodation had risen to 1536.

JOHN FINERON,

*Sanitary Inspector.*

